

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 10009 171839Z

62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03

OMB-01 AID-05 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SIL-01 NSC-05

SS-15 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-10 /100 W

----- 021903

R 171436Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1389

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 10009

E O 11652 NA

TAGS ETRD CO

SUBJ US - COLOMBIAN BILATERAL TRADE TALKS

SUMMARY: US AND COLOMBIA HELD BILATERAL TRADE TALKS OCT 10 AND 11, 1975 IN BOGOTA. THE COLOMBIAN DEL WAS COCHAired BY THE MIN FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT JORGE RAMIREZ AND DR ALBERTO GALEANO DIRECTOR OF THE COLOMBIAN FORN TRADE INSTITUTE (INCOMEX). US CO CHAIRMEN WERE DR ALBERT FISHLOW, DEPUTY ASSTSECY OF STATE, BUREAU OF INTER AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND MR STEPHEN LANDE, ASST SPECIAL TRADE REP. THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH WERE CORDIAL AND FRANK, WERE A ONTINUATION OF TALKS INITIATED IN WASHINGTON IN SEPT. TOPICS RAISED BY COLOMBIA INLCUDED THE US GSP, MTN, GATT, TEXTILES, MEAT, FLOWERS, A PROPOSED FEE INCREASE FOR THE PANAMA CANAL, TROPICAL PRODUCTS AND COFFEE. THIS TEL PRESENTS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE TOPICS DISCUSSED. TWO DETAILED MEMOS OF CONVERSATION ON THE DISCUSSIONS AND A JOINTLY PPROVED SUMMARY OF MEETING ARE BEING SUBMITTED SEPARATELY. END SUMMARY.

1. MIN RAMIREZ LED TALKS OFF WITH DISCUSSION OF COLOMBIAN ECONOMIC POLICY AND SITUATION WHICH PLACED THEM IN FAVORABLE POSITION, ALLOWED TERMINATIONS OF AID AND HAD PROVIDED COLOMBIA WITH ANUMBER OF COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS. THIS SITUATION LED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 10009 171839Z

COLOMBIA TO ANTICIPATE AND NEED GREATER ACCESS TO THE US MARKET.

WHILE THE SECY'S SPEECH HAD BEEN GREATLY ENCOURAGING, THE MIN MADE THE POINT, SUBSEQUENTLY REPEATED BY GALEANO AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COLOMBIAN DEL IN VARIOUS CONTEXTS, THAT COLOMBIA FELT FRUSTRATED IN THAT THE VERY POLICIES RECOMMENDED BY US OVER THE YEARS AND WHICH HAD BEEN ADOPTED BY COLOMBIA, HAVE LED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF LABOR INTENSIVE COMPETITIVE INDUSTRIES THAT ARE PRECISELY THOSE WHICH CONFRONT RESTRICTIONS BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITIES

IN THE US MARKET. MOREOVER WHILE THEY WOULD LIKE GREATER ACCESS TO ALL INDUSTRIALIZED MARKETS, THEIR POSITIVE BALANCE WITH THE EEC AND THEIR LARGE AND GROWING NEGATIVE BALANCE WITH THE US MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE EEC. THEY BELIEVED IT IMPERATIVE THAT THE BALANCE OF TRADE WITH THE US BECOME LESS UNEQUAL. RAMIREZ FURTHER ASKED THAT A GRADUATED RECIPROCITY BE APPLIED TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

DR FISHLOW ALSO PLACED THE TALKS IN THE ENVIRONMENT AS SEEN BY THE US WHICH INCLUDED WORLD RECESSION, OIL PRICES THAT MADE RECOVERY DIFFICULT, AND DOMESTIC US POLITICAL REALITIES. THE IMPROVING ATMOSPHERE OF THE UN 7TH SPECIAL SESSION, THE US INITIATIVE OUTLINED BY SECY KISSINGER, THE US GSP AND THE FORTHCOMING MTN, HOWEVER, MEANT SOLID PROGRESS COULD BE MADE. THESE TWO VIEWS OF THE RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS UNDERLINED THE SPECIFIC TOPICS DISCUSSED THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSIONS.

2. GSP: COLOMBIA GIVES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO GSP BUT SINCE COLOMBIA'S MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE GSP, THEY WANTED OTHER COLOMBIAN PRODUCTS PLACED ON THE LIST. THE COLOMBIAN REPS HANDED THE US GROUP THEIR COMMENTS ON GSP ITEMS THAT HAD BEEN SUBJECT TO REPRESENTATIONS BY US PRODUCERS. THE US DEL EXPLAINED THE GSP SYSTEM AND THE "COMPETITIVE NEED" RESTRICTIONS BUT SAID THAT THE TIME WAS NOT PROPITIOUS TO EXPAND LIST. PRODUCTS NOT ON LIST WERE SENSITIVE AND BEST APPROACH WAS TO GET OFFICIAL LIST AND MECHANISM WORKING. EXPERIENCE COULD BETTER PREDICT WHAT WOULD BE LIKELIHOOD EXPANSION AFTER JAN 1/76. US DEL EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT SCCN MEETING ON GSP AT THIS TIME WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE AS IT IS DIFFICULT TO PUT HUGE GENERAL LISTS INTO POLICY MAKING PROCESS. ONCE FINAL LIST IS OFFICIAL SUCH A MEETING MIGHT BE USEFUL. COLOMBIA UNDERSTOOD THIS POINT AND WAS NOT UNSYMPATHETIC.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 10009 171839Z

3. TEXTILES: TEXTILES IS PRODUCT THAT MOST CONCERNS COLOMBIA AND WHILE COLOMBIAN DEL SAID IT DID NOT WANT TO REOPEN DISCUSSION THEY

ASKED THAT THE AGREEMENT BE APPLIED WITH GREATER FLEXIBILITY. SINCE COLOMBIAN EXPORTS OF WOOL JACKETS FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30/75 (BEGINNING DATE FOR NEW MULTIFIBER AGREEMENT) EXCEEDED QUOTA WHICH WAS BASED ON EARLIER HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE, COLOMBIA

BELIEVES THE QUOTA IS RESTRICTIVE AND SHOULD BE ADJUSTED. US POINTED OUT THAT TEXTILES WAS MOST DIFFICULT CATEGORY AND THAT WITHIN TEXTILES WOOL JACKETS AND SUITS WERE AMONG MOST SENSITIVE PRODUCTS. THE DEL AGREED TO PASS THE GOC SPECIFIC REQUEST TO US OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH TEXTILE QUESTIONS. COLOMBIA AGREED TO SUBMIT A DETAILED LETTER ON THE MATTER.

4. FLOWERS: COLOMBIA EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN WITH POSIBILITY OF COLOMBIAN FLOWER EXPORTS BEING RESTRICTED OR SHUT OUT OF THE US MARKET. IN COLOMBIAN INDUSTRY REP'S MEETING WITH US FLOWER GROWERS,

US GROWERS HAD THREATENED TO USE ESCAPE CLAUSE TO RESTRICT OR STOP IMPORTS OF COLOMBIAN FLOWERS. FLOWER INDUSTRY IS VERY LABOR INTENSIVE AND DYNAMIC AND IDEALLY FITS COLOMBIAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY, THEY THEREFORE WANTED ASSURANCE OR GUARANTEE THAT FLOWERS WOULD NOT BE SHUT OFF.

THE US DEL DIFFERENTIATED BETWEEN COUNTERVAILING DUTY PROLEM AND ESCAPE CLAUSE. THE ESCAPE CLAUSE PROCEDURE WAS EXPLAINED, THE CHECKS AND BALANCES IN THIS LEGAL ADMIN PROCEDURE WERE ENUMERATED AND IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT TH US GROWERS COULD NOT DICTATE US POLICY.

5. MEAT: COLOMBIA EXPRESSED VIEW THAT US STANDARDS REGARDING MEAT IMPORTS WERE QUITE OLD AND ASKED THAT A TEAM BE SENT TO COLOMBIA TO REVIEW IMPROVED CONDITIONS AND RECOMMEND HOW COLOMBIA MIGHT ENTER THE US MARKET WITH FRESH BONELESS, COOKED AND PRECOOKED MEAT. THE US DEL POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS A US VETERINARY TEAM IN COLOMBIA WITH DARIEN GAP AFTOSA PROGRAM THAT KNEW CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY. THE TEAM WOULD BE WILLING TO LEND ITS ASSISTANCE. AS LONG AS AFTOSA EXISTED FRESH OR BONELESS MEAT IMPORTS INTO US FROM COLOMBIA WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. HOWEVER COOKED AND CANNED MEAT COULD BE EXPORTED AND COLOMBIA AGREED TO TAKE STEPS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 BOGOTA 10009 171839Z

NECESSARY TO HAVE A PLANT CERTIFIED BY US INSPECTORS TO EXPORT COOKED AND CANNED MEAT TO THE US.

6. PANAMA CANAL FEES: IN MIN RAMIREZ' OPENING REMARKS HE SAID A BILL NOW IN COMMITTEE IN THE US TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM OF ASSESSING CANAL TRANSIT FEES WAS OF GREAT CONCERN TO COLOMBIA AS IT INVOLVED DOMESTIC TRADE AS WELL AS NORTH/SOUTH TRADE. THE US DEL AGREED TO BRING COLOMBIA'S CONCERNS TO THE ATTENTION OF WASHINGTON. THE MATTER WAS NOT RAISED IN THE WORKING SESSIONS.

7. COFFEE: COLOMBIA WANTS AN AGREEMENT WITHIN THE FRAMWORK OF CONCEPTS WORKED OUT LAST JULY PRIOR TO FROST IN BRAZIL. COLOMBIA

BELIEVES AN UNDERSTANDNG AMONG BRAZIL, COLOMBIA AND US IS FUNDAMENTAL TO ANY INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT.

8. MTN: THE TWO DELS AGREED ON IMPORTANCE OF MTN AND COLOMBIA EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST THAT WORK IN THE MTN TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP BE GIVEN PRIORITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOKYO DECLARATION. THE US ASSURED COLOMBIA OF ITS COMMITMENT TO SEEK RESULTS WHICH TAKE SPECIAL ACCOUNT OF LDC INTERESTS.

9. GATT: COLOMBIA REQUESTED US SUPPORT FOR ITS DEFINITIVE ACCESSION TO GATT BUT WITH A COST THAT DOES NOT EXCEED COSTS RESULTING FROM MTN. THE US DEL WELCOMED COLOMBIAN PARTICIPATIONIN GATT AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT NECESSARY CONCESSIONS COULD BE MEANINGFUL WITHOUT BEING PAINFUL. COLOMBIA AGREED TO STUDY QUESTION OF RELATIVE RECI

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOGOTA10009
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750361-1094
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751044/aaaabndm.tel
Line Count: 174
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 17 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US - COLOMBIAN BILATERAL TRADE TALKS SUMMARY: US AND COLOMBIA HELD BILATERAL TRADE TALKS OCT 10 AND
TAGS: ETRD, CO, US, (RAMIREZ, JORGE), (GALEANO, ALBERTO), (FISHLOW, ALBERT), (LANDE, STEPHEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006